

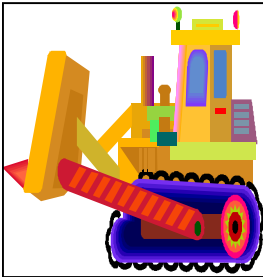


www.gardnerkansas.gov

Utility News

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Capital Projects Update



Kill Creek Water Tower—Construction of a new 1-million gallon water tower, located adjacent to the Kill Creek Wastewater Plant site, has begun. The project is expected to be completed in June 2007.

Water Main Extension Project continues along Moonlight, 167th, Madison, and Center and is in its final stages. This project will connect the gaps in the existing mains which will improve pressure to the system.

Bull Creek Lift Station Project is in the design stage and consists of converting the Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to a lift station and force main. The wastewater will be pumped to the Kill Creek Treatment Plant.

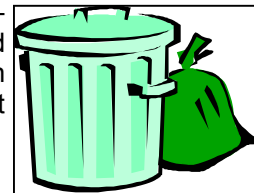
Northside Lift Station—After a bidding process, a contractor has been selected to begin construction of this project. Construction is expected to begin around the end of April and is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2007.

Lincoln Lane Project is planned to be constructed in Summer 2006 and will include new storm water improvement that will be completed before the construction on the expansion of Moonlight Road begins. The cost of this project is estimated at \$1.9 million.

Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant Expansion continues to move along as scheduled. Concrete for 95% of the treatment building, the bulk storage, and masonry for the carbon building and bulk storage are all complete. Progress continues on the concrete placement for the remainder of the new treatment building. When complete, the plant will be able to produce 2 million gallons per day and the expansion will boost capacity to 4 million gallons a day. The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2006.

City-Wide Clean-Up set for Saturday May, 13

Doing some spring cleaning? Let the City of Gardner help! The City of Gardner's annual large item pick-up is Saturday, May 13, 2006. All items must be at the curb by 7:00am. Residents will be responsible for disposal of all items not out in time for pick-up. Items should be placed within 3 feet of the curb. All bagged, boxed or bundled items must be less than 65 lbs. For additional information about the City wide clean-up, please visit the City's website at www.gardnerkansas.gov.



Over for more utilities news!

Consumer Tax Credit for Energy Efficiency Products

Did you know you could receive a consumer tax credit from the federal government for making energy efficient improvements to your home? A recent law change provides a tax credit to individuals who make their private residences more energy efficient. The law provides a 10 percent credit for buying qualified energy efficiency improvements or products. The following items might be eligible: insulation systems that reduce heat loss/gain, exterior windows (including skylights), exterior doors or metal roofs.

In addition, the law provides for costs relating to residential energy property expenses. The following items might be eligible: \$50 for each advanced main air circulating fan, \$150 for each qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water heater, \$300 for each item of qualified energy efficient property.

These consumer tax credits expire on December 31, 2007. For more information, visit the Internal Revenue Service's website at www.irs.gov and search for Individual Energy Tax Credits. Please contact a tax professional for more information on filling out your tax forms!



Water and Energy Conservation

Energy Conservation Efforts Needed

As the warm spring and summer months are approaching, it is important to begin planning for ways in which to conserve energy and prevent high utility bills. Did you know that up to 45% of your home or business energy costs are heating and cooling? Especially in the summer months when the outdoor temperature rises, our immediate reaction is to effectually cool our



homes by drastically lowering the thermostat. While maintaining conservative thermostat levels for one's air conditioner is one of the most effective ways to conserve energy during the summer months,

Here are some more great energy saving tips for the summer months:

- Set thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer. The less difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Consider an interior fan in conjunction with your window or HVAC air conditioner to spread cooler air more effectively throughout your home or business without greatly increasing your energy use.
- Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect the heat away from your home or business
- Close curtains on south and west-facing windows during the day. Apply sun-control or other reflective films on south-facing windows to reduce solar gain.

there are also several other tips that can lead to better summer energy conservation. Landscaping for energy conservation is a great way to conserve energy that is also aesthetically pleasing.

Carefully positioned trees, for example, can save up to 25% of a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling. Spring is a great time to begin planting trees and other landscaping to prepare for the warm summer months. Be sure to check out the City of Gardner's website at gardnerkansas.gov for more energy conservation tips!

Water Conservation Efforts Needed

Work continues on the Hillsdale Water Plant expansion, with completion anticipated for June 2006. This will expand the plant's current capacity of 2 million gallons a day to 4 million gallons a day.

Thus far, this season, we have seen limited amounts of precipitation. We are seeking your assistance in using water wisely as spring approaches. Last summer the City sought your assistance in an effort to help balance out water production, by asking **even numbered houses to water on even days and odd numbered houses to water on odd numbered days**. This plan was very successful last summer in stabilizing peak water consumption and reducing demand on the system. It will also help conserve water in our lakes, should we have a hot and dry summer. For water saving tips visit the City of Gardner's new website --www.gardnerkansas.gov.

